Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for dealerships/distributorships. The guidelines also provide for 33% reservation for women in each category including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

One Letter of Intent (LOI) has been issued by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for a LPG distributorship on 10.8.2001 in Falakata and one LOI has been issued by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for LPG distributorship on 25.7.2001 in Mathabhanga in West Bengal.

"Jal Bhagirathi" Convention

* 387. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 2-day "Jal Bhagirathi" Convention was held recently at Pushkar where some ambassadors/representatives of foreign embassies, UN bodies as well as funding organisations like the UNDP and others participated to study the problem of depletion of water levels and degradation of nature;

(b) if so, the details of the host and various organisations represented at the Convention and the discussions held, especially the observations made by foreign representatives; and

. (c) the action plan drawn up, if any, for conservation of water, extent of foreign participation and flow of external funds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to information collected by the Central Ground Water Board, a two day convention was held on 24th and 25th November, 2001 at Pushkar. A list of invitees who attended the convention is enclosed in the Statement *(See* below). This Convention was called by Shri Gaj Singh of Jodhpur. Tarun Bharat Sangh, a Non-Governmental Organisation was also stated to be associated with this Convention.

The Convention is stated to have decided to launch water harvesting programme in Marwar region of Rajasthan and also to have programmes of pasture land development and water harvesting

structures for recharging of ground water at an estimated cost of Rs. 440.00 lakhs. It has been reported that some external funds have also been agreed to. However, Government is yet to receive any communication from the organisers or any other agency in this regard.

Statement

List of Invitees who attended the convention on water resource management at Royal Camp held on 24-25th November, 2001 at Pushkar, Rajasthan

SI. No.	Name	Address
1.	His Highness Maharaj Sahib	Uraaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur.
2.	Her Highness Maharani Sahiba	Umaid Bhawan, Palace, Jodhpur.
3.	H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Hirabayashi	Ambassador of Japan, Embassy of Japan, 50-G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021.
4.	Ms. Jackueline d* ChoMet Towbirt	Global Foundation for Humanity, 32, Abbotsbury Close, London W14, 8EG
5.	Shri Rajandra Singhji	Tanin Bkarat Sangh.
6.	Mr. Mihir Saharia	Senior Manager, International Development Enterprise (IDE), Private Sector Coordination, C-S/43, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016
7.	Mr. Sabio Caryalio	Programme Manager for West India, OXFAM Trust, B-3, Geetanjali Enclave, New Delhi-110017.
8.	Mr. Iklaviya Prasad	Coordinator, Centre for Science and Environment, 41, Tuglakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062.
9.	Lori Peterson Dando	Second Secretary for Science Tech. Environment and Health Aifcirs, Embassy of the United States Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021.

SI. No.	Name	Address
10.	Mr. Valmiki D. Thapar	—
11.	Mr. Dinesh Ch. Viyas	Field Officer (ERP), CASA, Jaipur, Office-Church's Auxiliary for Social Action Rachna Building, 2 Rajendra Place, Pusa Road, New Delhi-110018.
12.	Mr. Von Millard	US-Asia Environment Partnership India Country Director, Embassy of United States.
13.	Mrs. Millard	Diplomat in US Embassy, Embassy of United States
14.	Chris Rich	Political Officer, US Embassy, Embassy of United States
15.	Dr G. Krucgcr	Director General, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce 'German House', 2 Nyaya Marg, New Delhi.
16.	Shri Ajay P. Singha	Regional Director, Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, 'German House', 2 Nyaya Marg, New Delhi.
17.	Mr. Juergen Mertens	Head of Economic and Commercial Department, Minister-Counsellor, 6/50 G, Shantipath Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021.
18.	Ms. Mithulina Chatterjee	Programme 'Officer, United Nations Development Programme, 55, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-l 10003.
19.	Mr. Oliver Louis	Minister Counsellor for Economic Trade and Finance Commission, Embassy of France, 2/50 E, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-l 10021.
20.	Dr. Haridas	Officer, CARTLAS INDIA, EDMS Department, CBCI Centre, Ahsok Place, Gole Dakkhana, New Delhi-110001.
21.	Mr. Ajay S. Mehta	Executive Director, National Foundation of India, Core 4A, Upper Ground Floor, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi-l 10003.

SI. No.	Name		Address
22.	Shri Mukcsh Sharma,	IAS	Commissionner, Ajmer Division.
23.	Brig. Shakti Singhji		Co Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur.
24.	Shri Prithviraj Singhji		D-66(B), Sawai Madho Singh Road, Bani Park, Jaipur-16.
25.	Shri R.R. Mahendra	Singhji	C/o Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur.
26.	Dr. J.R. Sharma		Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Department of Space, Government of India, CAZRI Campus, Jodhpur-342003.
27.	Dr. G. Shrinivasan		Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Department of Space, Government of India, CAZRI Campus, Jodhpur-342003.
28.	Dr. A.K. Gupta		Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Department of Space, Government of India, CAZRI Campus, Jodhpur-342003.

Performance of LIC

*388. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall performance of LIC in the last few years have deteriorated;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NPAs have been mounting and if so, the steps taken to expedite recovery of outstanding loan which is slow; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance and financial health of LIC in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The overall performance of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has improved during the last few years. Details regarding growth in new business (First Premium Income) of LIC from 1998 to 2W)1 are given in the Statement (See below).